

THANKSGIVING REMEMBRANCE REDEDICATION



KING GEORGE VI

QUEEN ELIZABETH



PROVINCE OF MANITOBA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Rhoda Klick ⁷³⁴ May 7, 1945

25⁰⁰

1945

Programme of
Thanksgiving, Remembrance and Rededication
for
School and Community

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

PRESENTED TO

Rhoda E. Beck

Norwood Collegiate School

On the occasion of the public celebration of
the victory of the United Nations in Europe

Monday
on ~~May 7~~ the 7

of May 1945



Programme

Chairman—We are met together to thank God for the victory of the United Nations in Europe. The first part of the terrible ordeal of the free peoples of the world against powers that would enslave them is over. We can face the future, confident that with God's help the power of Japan, too, may speedily be overcome and the people of the Far East be freed from the long horror of oppression and war.

All sing: "All People that on Earth do Dwell."

All people that on earth do dwell
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell;
Come ye before Him, and rejoice.

Know that the Lord, is God indeed;
Without our aid, He did us make;
We are His flock, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter, then, His gates with praise,
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His Name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good;
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

Amen.

Prayer: Blessed be Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers, for ever and ever. Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is Thine: Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and Thou art exalted above all. Now therefore, our God, we thank Thee, and praise Thy glorious name.

Scripture reading: Psalm 27, v. 1-6, 13, 14.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.

One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me: he shall set me up upon a rock.

And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me; therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praise unto the Lord.

I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.

Narrator—In September, 1939, Great Britain and France declared war on Germany. As Churchill said:

Churchill (A Pupil):

“Sir, we did not make this war. We did not seek it. We did all we could to avoid it. We did too much to avoid it. We went so far in trying to avoid it as to be almost destroyed by it when it broke upon us.”

Narrator—The British government had done everything it could to prevent war. The Germans seized Austria and Czechoslovakia. But in September, 1939, when Germany invaded Poland, Great Britain and France declared war and British soldiers crossed to France to fight with their French comrades.

Hitler, the German leader, believed that the British were weak. He believed they would not fight. He thought that the British Empire was falling to pieces and that the Dominions would not take part in the war in Europe. But he was wrong. Britain declared war on Germany on September 2, 1939. And one by one the Dominions ranged themselves by her side in defence of freedom.

One hour after the message "Britain is at war" was picked up in Australia, the Royal Australian Navy sailed to take up its battle stations.

The Prime Minister of New Zealand broadcast this message—

The Prime Minister of New Zealand (A Pupil) :

"Both with gratitude for the past and confidence for the future, we range ourselves without fear beside Britain. Where she goes, we go; where she stands, we stand."

Narrator—The Prime Minister of South Africa said—

General Smuts (A Pupil) :

"In taking our part in this war we are not merely defending ourselves, our country and our future. We are also safeguarding that larger territory of human freedom, freedom of conscience, freedom of thought, and freedom of religion, which is threatened, as never before in history, by the Nazi menace."

Narrator—The Prime Minister of Canada summoned Parliament, put the issue before them, secured their assent and declared—

The Prime Minister of Canada (A Pupil) :

"I have never doubted that when the fatal moment came, the free spirit of the Canadian people would assert itself, as it did a quarter of a century ago, in the preservation and defence of freedom."

A Pupil—

“A RECKONING”

Ye who would reckon with England—
Ye who would sweep the seas
Of the flag that Rodney nailed aloft
And Nelson flung to the breeze—
Count well your ships and your men,
Count well your horse and your guns,
For they who reckon with England
Must reckon with England's sons.

Ye who would roll to warfare
Your hordes of peasants and slaves,
To crush the pride of an empire
And sink her fame in the waves—
Test well your blood and your mettle,
Count well your troops and your guns,
For they who battle with England
Must war with a mother's sons.

Narrator—In the spring of 1940, the Nazi enemies overran Denmark, Norway and Holland. They swept into Belgium and then with all the weight of the most efficiently trained and equipped army of all time, they struck at France. They broke through the French lines and poured into France. The armies of France and Britain were separated. The British were slowly forced back. Attacked from two sides, they fought against terrible odds. Mile by mile they stubbornly retired until they stood with their backs to the sea at Dunkerque. They were shattered by gunfire, harassed by enemy bombers. Ringed about by what was left of their guns, they fought on. In their hearts was no thought of surrender.

Then from across the channel came the strangest fleet the world has ever seen. Pleasure boats from the Thames, ferry boats from Liverpool, Blackpool and Grimsby, fishing boats from Hull and Norwich, big boats, little boats, sail boats, power boats—tugs, trawlers, smacks, schooners, manned by fishermen, bank clerks, school teachers and office boys, crossed the channel to take off the battered British battalions. Day after day, this weird flotilla crossed and recrossed the Straits of Dover while overhead roared the fighters of the Royal Air Force driving off the deadly dive bombers. Three hundred and thirty-five thousand British and French soldiers were brought back from the beaches of Dunkerque.

In Paris a French official said—

French Official (A Pupil) :

“France has fought valiantly; but she is conquered. The British, too, must give up the struggle.”

Narrator—Hitler told his people—

Hitler (A Pupil) :

“We have crushed the French. It is Britain’s turn next. She would do well to make terms while yet there is time.”

Narrator—Goebbels said—

Goebbels (A Pupil) :

“Our armies will have conquered the proud islands before the summer is over.”

Narrator—A captured German airman boasted—

Airman (A Pupil) :

“The Fuehrer will be in London in August.”

Narrator—But others saw more clearly. This editorial appeared in a great American newspaper, the New York Times—

A Pupil—“So long as the English tongue survives, the word Dunkerque will be spoken with reverence. For in that harbour, in such a hell as never blazed before, at the end of a lost battle, the rags and blemishes that have hidden the soul of democracy fell away. There, beaten but unconquered, in shining splendour, she faced the enemy.

They sent away the wounded first. Men died so that others could escape. It was not such a simple thing as courage, which the Nazis had in plenty. It was not so simple a thing as discipline, which can be hammered into men by a drill sergeant. It was not the result of careful planning, for there could have been little. It was the common man of the free countries, rising in all his glory out of the mill, office, factory, mine, farm and ship, applying to war the lessons he learned when he went down the shaft to bring out trapped comrades, when he hurled the lifeboat through the surf, when he endured poverty and hard work for his children’s sake. This shining thing in the souls of free men Hitler cannot command, or attain, or conquer. He has crushed it where he could from German hearts.

It is the great tradition of democracy. It is the future. It is Victory.”

Narrator—And from London the British Lion roared defiance with Churchill's voice:

Churchill (A Pupil) :

"We shall not flag nor fail. We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender."

Narrator—Italy struck at dying France and came into the war on the side of Germany. German armies massed on the coasts of Holland and France. Now the British people stood alone and unarmed against the threats of German invasion. Then began the battle of Britain. The German air-force viciously attacked our shipping and our harbours, our air-fields and factories. In the month of September, 1940, London became the main target of German hate. Her docks, her warehouses, her factories, her historic buildings, her homes, her hospitals, her ancient churches, were blasted by bombs, and burned by fire. Thousands of her people were killed. Day after day for three months the dauntless Spitfires and Hurricanes struck back at the invaders. On one day alone one hundred and eighty-five German planes were shot down and by the end of October, two thousand, three hundred and seventy-five German aircraft were destroyed. The battle of Britain was won. Churchill expressed the thought of every Briton when he said —

Churchill (A Pupil) :

"The gratitude of every home in our island, in our Empire, and indeed throughout the world, except in the abodes of the guilty, goes out to the British airmen, who undaunted by odds, unwearied in their constant challenge and danger, are turning the tide of the world war by their prowess and devotion. Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Narrator—Then followed three years of struggle often marked by cruel defeat and disappointment. The Germans added Yugoslavia and Greece to their conquests. They attacked the Russians and drove them back to the Volga.

A third ruthless enemy struck at us. At Hong Kong, at Singapore, in Burma and Malaya, troops of the Empire suffered defeats before the treacherous Japanese.

In Africa Rommel drove the British army back to Egypt.

At sea the German submarines, the wolf packs, lay in wait for our convoys carrying food and weapons across the Atlantic and many brave men and ships were lost. But the men of the merchant marine carried on. Navy yards in Great Britain and Canada turned out more and more ships. The world thrilled to the stories of the *Jervis Bay*, who sacrificed herself to save the bulk of a ship convoy; the destruction of the great German *Graf Spee* by the small cruisers, the *Ajax*, *Achilles* and *Exeter*.

Slowly the tide of danger, defeat and disappointment began to turn. The gallant Russian armies began pushing the Germans back. The mighty United States came into the war after being treacherously attacked at Pearl Harbour by the Japanese.

The German navy was driven from the seas. In Africa the British armies shattered Italy's African empire. The gallant Eighth Army under General Montgomery chased Rommel's armies back across Africa to Tunisia. A great combined force of British and Americans had landed on the coast of North-west Africa. These forces attacking from the west joined with Montgomery's forces to drive the enemy out of Africa altogether. In the meantime the allied air-forces were keeping up a relentless pounding of German ports and industrial centres.

On July 10, 1943, the greatest invasion fleet the world has ever seen appeared off the coast of Sicily, and troops, tanks, trucks and guns were unloaded on the beaches. As the allies conquered Italy, the Russians drove the great German armies relentlessly back toward their own borders, freeing great cities and hundreds of Russian towns and villages from the grasp of the enemy.

In the Pacific the Japanese were driven from island after island, their navy harassed by American and Australian aircraft and ships. Australia was freed from the threat of invasion; American planes attacked Tokyo.

And then came June, 1944, in the fifth year of the war. In the early dawn of the 6th, under a great umbrella of aircraft, a huge armada crossed the channel and troops of the United Nations poured on to the beaches of Normandy. The great D-Day attack which was the preliminary to the victory we are commemorating today had begun.

As the allies pressed in on Germany from west, east, south and north the people of the occupied countries rose to help them. And now these people for so long harassed, repressed, starved, are free at last from their long tyranny.

All sing: "O God of Bethel."

O God of Bethel, by Whose hand
Thy people still are fed;
Who through this weary pilgrimage
Hast all our fathers led:

Our vows, our prayers, we now present
Before Thy throne of grace;
God of our fathers, be the God
Of their succeeding race.

Through each perplexing path of life
Our wandering footsteps guide;
Give us each day our daily bread,
And raiment fit provide.

O spread Thy covering wings around,
Till all our wanderings cease,
And at our Father's loved abode
Our souls arrive in peace.

Amen.

Prayer: O God, our Father we thank Thee that Thou art able to save to the uttermost all who come unto Thee; that Thou deliverest us from our fears and distresses; that Thou art able to keep us from falling and to preserve us faultless before Thee. Help us, O God, who has so abundantly blessed us with the gifts of Thy favours, never to doubt Thee, or to fall away from Thy grace, but freely to yield ourselves to the fulfilment of Thy purposes with the doing of Thy will.

We thank Thee for Thy goodness to our nation; that Thou hast given us grace to uphold the righteous cause; that Thou dost manifest Thy power in the courage of our men and in the steadfastness of our people. O God, because it is not of ourselves, but only of Thy mighty hand, that we obtain these benefits, we pray Thee to keep our hearts free from boastfulness and pride, and to incline us rather to greater humility and thankfulness, and to fuller dependence upon Thee.

Chairman—As we have listened to the presentation summarizing the events which have led to victory, as we have praised God and given thanks to Him for his guidance through the fearful days that have passed, we must have been thinking of those who with God's help have made victory possible—The men and women in the Navy, the Army, the Airforce, in the Nursing service, in the Merchant Marine. We shall remember that many of these have suffered wounds, imprisonment and death for this day of victory. We must remember, too, the men, women and children who have suffered and died in England, in France, in Holland, in Belgium, in Norway, Denmark, Jugo-Slavia, Greece and other occupied countries, under bombs and by starvation and torture while we have been safe. We must never forget the great lesson of this war—that “eternal vigilance is the price of freedom”. We must remember that the freedom for which so many have suffered and died may easily be lost if we are not alert to guard and cherish it.

Let us now think of those who have died that we might be free and safe. We shall sing—“O Valiant Hearts”.

O valiant hearts, who to your glory came
Through dust of conflict and through battle-flame ;
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.

Proudly you gathered, rank on rank to war,
As who had heard God's message from afar ;
All you had hoped for, all you had, you gave
To save mankind—yourself you scorned to save.

Splendid you passed, the great surrender made,
Into the light that nevermore shall fade ;
Deep your contentment in that blessed abode,
Who wait the last clear trumpet-call of God.

Now let us stand and bow our heads and remember them in silence.

ONE MINUTE SILENCE

As we think of those who died that we may be citizens of a free Canada, we shall hear the words of Pericles who spoke to the citizens of Athens, many hundreds of years ago on just such an occasion as this.

Pericles (A Pupil) :

"But each one, man by man, has won imperishable praise, each has gained a glorious grave.—not that sepulchre of earth wherein they lie, but the living tomb of everlasting remembrance wherein their glory is enshrined, remembrance that will live on the lips, that will blossom in the deeds of their countrymen the world over. For the whole earth is the sepulchre of heroes; monuments may rise and tablets be set up to them in their own land, but on far-off shores there is an abiding memorial that no pen or chisel has traced; it is graven, not on stone or brass, but on the living hearts of humanity. Take these men for your example. Like them remember that prosperity can be only for the free, that freedom is the sure possession of those alone who have courage to defend it."

Chairman—Hundreds of years later Abraham Lincoln spoke to the American people in memory of those who died to preserve the union of the United States of America. When he spoke the Civil War was still going on and there still remained, as there remains to us, a period of struggle. He called on those who listened to him, as Pericles did, to dedicate themselves to the task of making freedom endure.

Lincoln (A Pupil) :

"It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

Chairman—In the spirit of remembering, let us pledge ourselves to the service of our country. Let us make up our minds to be the best that we can be, to do the best that we can do, so that we shall be worthy citizens of a greater and and a better Canada—a greater and a better world.

Let us sing—"Land of Our Birth we Pledge to Thee."

Land of our birth, we pledge to thee
Our love and toil in the years to be,
When we are grown and take our place
As men and women with our race.

Teach us to bear the yoke in youth,
With steadfastness and careful truth;
That, in our time, Thy grace may give
The Truth whereby the nations live.

Teach us to rule ourselves always
Controlled and cleanly night and day;
That we may bring, if need arise,
No maimed or worthless sacrifice.

Teach us delight in simple things,
And mirth that has no bitter things;
Forgiveness free of evil done,
And love to all men 'neath the sun.

Land of our birth, our faith, our pride,
For whose dear sake our fathers died;
O Motherland, we pledge to thee
Head, heart, and hand through the years to be.

Amen.

Chairman—Let us sing—"O Canada"

O Canada! our home and native land!
True patriot-love in all thy sons command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free,
And stand on guard, O Canada,
We stand on guard for thee.

O Canada, glorious and free,
We stand on guard, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

O Canada! where pines and maples grow,
Great prairies spread and lordly rivers flow,
How dear to us thy broad domain,
From East to Western Sea
Thou land of hope for all who toil!
Thou True North, strong and free.

O Canada, glorious and free,
We stand on guard, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

Chairman—Let us pray:

Lord God of hosts, give to the citizens of our country, those within and those without the armed forces, a courage as strong, a loyalty as deep, a sacrifice so unmeasured, and a faith so sure that come what may, the principles of freedom and justice, of tolerance and equality, which are our heritage from our fathers, will not slip or be wrested from our possession, but will remain safe and secure in our hearts and hands, to be given undiminished and unimpaired to the generations following us. This we ask in Thy great name.

All—

Our Father*, which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

All sing—

“GOD SAVE THE KING”

God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
 God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us;
 God save the King!

